

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 21-22, and 24-25 are currently pending. Claims 1, 21, 22, 24, and 25 have been amended.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 7-9 are allowed and claim 25 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 24. As such, claim 25 is in a condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to claim 22 for an informality. Applicant has amended claim 22 as suggested by the Examiner to correct the error.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 21-22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Keil (U.S. Patent No. 2,001,666).

Amended claim 1 defines a door handle assembly that is attachable to a door that defines an attachment surface. The door handle assembly includes a handle that includes a first attachment portion and a second attachment portion spaced apart a distance to couple the handle to the door. An actuator is coupled to the door and a latch bolt is coupled to the actuator and is movable along a latch bolt axis between an extended position and a retracted position. An attachment member at least partially defines the second attachment portion and defines an attachment axis that is substantially parallel to the attachment surface. The attachment member is movable along the attachment axis relative to the handle to move the second attachment point between a first position and a second position to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion.

Keil does not teach or suggest a door handle assembly that includes a handle having a first and second attachment portion and an attachment member that at least partially defines

the second attachment portion and is movable to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion. Rather, Keil discloses a handle assembly that includes a handle 13 that defines a pair of studs 15, 16. The studs fit through apertures 17, 18 in a plate 10 to which the handle 13 is being attached. A fastening part 21 includes two apertures 24, 25 that also receive the studs 15, 16. The fastening part 21 moves downward to engage slots 19, 20 to lock the handle 13 to the plate 10.

The Examiner argues that the fastening part 21 is analogous to the attachment member. However, this component does not at least partially define the second attachment portion of the handle. Furthermore, the fastening part 21 is not movable between a first position and a second position to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion. The studs 15, 16 of Keil are the nearest analogous parts to the attachment portions and they are clearly fixed with respect to one another.

In light of the foregoing, Keil does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. As such, claim 1 is allowable. In addition, claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are also allowable.

Amended claim 21 defines a door handle assembly that is attachable to a door that defines an attachment surface. The door handle assembly includes a handle having a first end defining a first attachment portion and a second end defining a second attachment portion spaced a distance from the first attachment portion. The first attachment portion and the second attachment portion are coupled to the door. A base is fixedly attached to the second end. The base defines a slot. An attachment member is coupled to the second end to at least partially define the second attachment portion and has an orientation that is substantially fixed with respect to the second end. The attachment member is movable within a plane that is

substantially parallel to the attachment surface to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion. The slot defines an adjustment axis that extends along a line between the first end and the second end.

Keil does not teach or suggest a door handle assembly that includes a handle having a first end defining a first attachment portion and a second end defining a second attachment portion spaced a distance from the first attachment portion and an attachment member that at least partially defines the second attachment portion and that is movable to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion. As discussed with regard to claim 1, Keil discloses a handle 13 that includes two studs 15, 16 that are roughly analogous to attachment portions, and a fastening part 21 that moves with respect to both studs 15, 16 to lock the handle 13 to the plate 10. Keil does not teach or suggest moving any portion of the handle with respect to another portion of the handle to vary a distance therebetween.

In light of the foregoing, Keil does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 21. As such, claim 21 is allowable. In addition, claim 22 depends from claim 21 and is also allowable.

Amended claim 24 defines a door handle assembly that is attachable to a door that defines an attachment surface. The door handle assembly includes a handle having a first end defining a first attachment portion and a second end defining a second attachment portion spaced a distance from the first attachment portion to couple the handle to the door. A base is fixedly attached to the second end. The base defines a slot. An attachment member is coupled to the second end to at least partially define the second attachment portion and has an orientation that is substantially fixed with respect to the second end. The attachment member

is movable within a plane that is substantially parallel to the attachment surface to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion. The attachment member includes a slider engaged with the slot and movable within the slot between a first position and a second position.

Keil does not teach or suggest a door handle assembly that includes a handle having a first end defining a first attachment portion and a second end defining a second attachment portion spaced a distance from the first attachment portion and an attachment member that at least partially defines the second attachment portion and is movable to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion. As discussed with regard to claims 1 and 21, Keil discloses a handle 13 that includes two studs 15, 16 that are fixed with respect to one another. A fastening part 21 moves with respect to the handle to engage the studs 15, 16 and attach the handle 13 to the plate 10. The only component that moves in the Keil design is the fastening part. However, its distance from the handle does not vary, only its orientation and position relative to the handle changes. Thus, Keil does not teach or suggest a handle that includes a first attachment portion and a second attachment portion at least partially defined by an attachment member that is movable to vary the distance between the first attachment portion and the second attachment portion.

In light of the foregoing, Keil does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 24. As such, claim 24 is allowable.

### **CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9, 21-22, and 24-25 are allowable.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TL J Otterlee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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